(b) Orissa Government have indicated their willingness to consider restoration of original concessions relating to Orissa Sales Tax and exemption of entry tax on crude oil.

(c) No, Sir. In the first stage of implementation for the Refinery Project, an SPM system, with pipelines and Crude Oil Terminal at Paradeep is proposed.

Privatisation for retailing sector of IOC

70. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to privatize the retailing infrastructure of IOC;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore;

(c) whether privatizing the retail outlets of IOC would cause the company losing its position as a profit making PSU; and

(d) if not, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (d) While considering the judgement of the Supreme Court dated 16-9-2003 on HPCL & BPCL, the Government have decided to pursue the following three options simultaneously :

(i) to seek appropriate legal remedies;

(ii) to enact an appropriate legislation by building consensus; and

(iii) to explore the executive option of disinvesting the marketing arm of the Indian Oil Corporation Limited.

Option (iii) is still under preliminary stage of consideration and Government is yet to reach any final decision with regard to this option or its modalities.

Revision in prices of LPG and Kerosene

71. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided not to execute any hike in the retail prices of LPG and kerosene and postpone the proposed phasing out of subsidy on the two fuels by two years;

(b) if so, the reasons for taking such decision; and

(c) the quantum of loss Government are likely to incur as a result thereof?